

The Bath Comedy

By AGNES and EGERTON CASTLE

Authors of "The Pride of Jennico"

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CHAPTER I.

WHAT? My sweet Lady Standish in tears!

Mistress Kitty Bellairs poised her dainty person on one foot and cast a mocking, somewhat contemptuous, yet good humored glance at the slim length of sobbing womanhood prone on the gilt legged, satin cushioned sofa.

"Tears," said Mistress Kitty, twirling round on her heel to look at the set of her new sack in the mirror and admire its delicate flowered folds as they caught the shafts of spring sunshine that pierced into the long, dim room from the narrow street. "Tears, my dear, unless you cry becomingly, which I would have you know not one in the thousand can, are a luxury every self respecting woman ought to deny herself. Now I," said Mistress Kitty, and tweaked at a powdered curl and turned her head like a bird for a last glimpse at the mirror before sinking into an armchair and drawing closer to her afflicted friend, "have not shed a tear since I lost my first lover, and that is— I will not say how many years ago, I was a mightily precocious child! When I say a tear, mind you, 'tis a figure of speech. Far be it from me to deny the charm of a pretty drop—just one, enough to gather on the tip of the finger, enough just to soothe the pathetic eye. Oh, that is not only permissible, 'tis to be cultivated. But such weeping as yours—sobs that shake you, tears that drench the handkerchief, reddened eyes, not to speak of the nose—dear me! It is clean against all reason. Come," with a sudden gentle change of tone, putting her hand on the abused head, where fair curls luxuriated in all their native sunshine, "what is it all about?"

Lady Standish slowly and languidly drew herself into a sitting posture and raised a countenance marred out of its delicate beauty by the violent passion of her grief. Swimming blue eyes she fixed upon the Mistress Kitty's plump, dimpling face.

"Alas," she breathed upon the gust of a sigh that was as wet as an April breeze, and tripped up by a belated sob. "Alas, you see in me the most miserable of women. Alas, my heart is broken!"

Here the kerchief, soaked indeed beyond all possible utility, was frantically held to streaming eyes once more. "Mercy!" cried the pretty widow. "You could not take on worse if you had the smallpox; you, a three months' wife!"

"Ah, no!" moaned Lady Standish.

"So," said Mistress Kitty, "he has been a brute again, has he? Come, Julia, weep on my bosom. What is it now? Did he kiss you on the forehead instead of on the lips, or did he say, 'Zounds, madam, when you upset a dish of tea over his waistcoat, or yet did he, could he, the monster—say, it is not possible, yet men are so—could he have whispered that Lady Caroline looked passable last night?"

Lady Standish rose to her feet, crumpled her kerchief in one small hand and faced her friend with tragic passion.

"It is useless to blind myself," she said. "Cease to gibe at me, pray, Mistress Bellairs. I must face the truth! My husband loves me no longer! Oh, Kitty, Kitty," dropping from her height of tragedy very quickly and landing on a whimper again, "is it not sad? I have tried, heaven is my witness, to win him back by the tenderest love, by the most pitiful pleading. He has seen me weep and pine. 'Rob me of your love,' I have told him, 'and you rob me of life.' And he, he—oh, how shall I tell you? As the days go by he is with me less and less. He walks abroad with others. His evenings he gives to strangers—aye, and half his nights—while I may sob myself to sleep at home. I saw him to-day but for two minutes. 'Twas half an hour ago. He entered here upon me, looking, oh, Kitty, as only he can look, the most elegant and beautiful of men. I was singing, piping as a poor bird may to strive and call its mate to the nest. He passed through the room without a word, without a sign, he that used to say 'twas heaven to sit and listen to his voice. 'What?' I exclaimed as he reached the door. 'Not a word for poor Julia?' Kitty, at the sound of that cry wrung from my heart he turned and frowned and said—Oh, oh, oh!"

"Ha!" said Mistress Kitty. "What said he?" "Heaven help him!" said she aside. "The woman's a fountain." "He said," sobbed Julia, "Mayn't a man even go for a stroll? Oh, had you but heard the cold, indifferent tone you would have understood how it cut me to the heart. I ran to him and laid my hand upon his sleeve, and he said—"

"Again grief overcame her."

"Well, what said he?"

"He said—oh, oh—he said, 'Julia, don't paw me.'"

Mistress Kitty Bellairs, the reigning toast of Bath, the prettiest woman, in the estimation of her admirers, in all England, and the wittiest, laughed long to herself, then rose from her chair, took her tall friend by the shoulders and walked her up to the mirror.

"Look at yourself," said she, "and look at me."

Lady Standish winced. The contrast between her own disheveled hair, her arched, swollen countenance, her un-

tidy morning gown and the blooming perfection of the apparition beside her was more than she could contemplate. Kitty Bellairs—as complete in every detail of beauty as a carnation—smiled upon herself sweetly.

"My dear," said she, "I have had thirty-seven declared adorers these three years, and never one tired of me yet. Poor Bellairs," she said, with a light sigh, "he had two wives before me, and he told me with his last breath that 'twas I gave him all the joy he ever knew.'"

Lady Standish ceased weeping as suddenly as if her tears had been mechanically turned off. She regarded the widow earnestly.

"Now, child," said Mistress Bellairs, with all the authority of her twenty-six years, "here we have been four weeks acquainted and you have more than once done me the honor of saying that you considered me your friend."

"Tis so," said Lady Standish. "Tisn't listen to me. There are three great rules to be observed in our dealings with men. The first rule comprises an extraordinary number of minor details, but briefly and compre-



"Look at yourself," said she, "and look at me."

hensively it runs thus: Never be monotonous. Second rule: Never let a man be too sure of you. Oh, that is a wonderful, wise maxim! Reflect upon it. Third: Never, never let a man see how well, how far from lovely you can look. Tush, tush! You are a better looking woman than I am, but not when you have been blubbing and not when you are fretful."

Lady Standish suddenly sat down as if her limbs could support her no more. She looked up at the ceiling with tear-dimmed eyes.

"Pray," said Mistress Kitty inquisitorially ex cathedra, "how many times a day do you tell that unfortunate man that you love him? And, worse still, how many times a day do you want him to say that he loves you? I vow 'tis enough to drive him to cards or wine or something infinitely worse that also begins with a w! And, pray, if you spend all you have and empty your purse, do you think your purse becomes a very valuable possession? 'Tis a mere bit of leather. Nay, nay, keep your gold and give it out piece by piece, and do not give it all at once, you get good change for it. Oh," cried Kitty, a fine flush of indignation rising scarlet behind her rouge, "I marvel that women should be such fools—to act the handmaid where they should ever rule as mistress, to cast forth unsought what they should dole out only to the suppliant on bended knee. Hath a man ever had from me an unsolicited avarice? Have I ever thrown the most ardent lover more than a 'perchance' and 'it may be,' a smile, a dimple, a finger tip? (What they have stolen I have not given, that is obvious. And, besides, 'tis neither here nor there.) And pray, Lady Standish, since when have you left off putting on rouge and having your hair tied and powdered, and wearing a decent gown of mornings and a modish sack, and a heel to that pretty foot, a jewel in the ear and a patch beneath the lip?"

Lady Standish had ceased contemplating the ceiling. She was looking at her friend.

"But, madam," she said, "this is strange advice. Would you have me coquette with my husband? Tell me, what shall I do?"

"Do!" cried the widow, rising with a brisk laugh. "Get some powder into your hair and some color into those cheeks. And when Sir Jasper returns the left yof in tears; he will be sullen when he comes home; 'tis a mere matter of self defense let him find you gay, distract. Say a sharp thing or two if you can. Tell him you do not need his company this afternoon. Ah, and if you could make him jealous! 'Tis a very, very old trick, but, then, you see, love is a very old game, the oldest of all. Make him jealous, my dear; make him jealous and you'll win the rubber yet!"

"Jealous!" cried the three months' wife, and all the blood of the innocent country girl leaped to her brow. "Oh, madam, how could that be?"

(To Be Continued.)

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CITY ORDINANCES.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEWER DISTRICT NUMBER TWO, AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS THEREIN, IN THE CITY OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY.

Section 1. That there is hereby established and created a sewer district in the city of Paducah, Kentucky, to be known as Sewer District Number Two, which shall embrace all of the sewers provided for herein.

Section 2. That there is hereby ordered to be constructed and laid main and branch sewers in the city of Paducah, as follows:

A main sewer in Kentucky avenue along the center line from a proper connection with the present sewer existing at the corner of Ninth street and Kentucky avenue; thence running southwesterly along the center line of said Kentucky avenue to a regulating chamber, hereinafter described, situated in the center line of said Kentucky avenue at a point seventy-five (75) feet southwesterly along said center line from the northwesterly boundary line of the land of the Illinois Central Railroad company; thence said main sewer, properly connected with said regulating chamber, shall extend southeasterly along the line parallel with the southwesterly boundary line of Ninth street over and along private lands owned by the O. L. Gregory Vinegar company, the Illinois Central Railroad company, and Biederman and Gardner, to a point in the center line of Adams street between Eleventh and Twelfth; thence northeasterly along the center line of Adams street to the center line of Eleventh street; thence along the center line of Eleventh street to the intersection of the northwesterly line of Norton street with said center line of Eleventh street.

A branch main sewer shall be connected with said regulating chamber in the center line of Kentucky avenue hereinafter described, and shall extend thence southwesterly along the center line of Kentucky avenue and Kentucky avenue if extended southwesterly across the lands and right of way of the Illinois Central Railroad company and the lands of Noble and Yeiser and in said Kentucky avenue to the center line of Twelfth street; thence along the center line of Twelfth street to an intersection with the center line of Clay street; thence northeasterly along the center line of Clay street to the center line of that portion of Twelfth street lying northwesterly of Clay street, and along said center line of that portion of Twelfth street lying northwesterly of Clay street to the intersection of the center line with the alley northwest of Clay street; thence northeasterly along the center line of the alley northwest of Clay street to a point one hundred and sixty (160) feet southwesterly from the southwesterly line of Ninth street.

There shall be constructed outlets from the regulating chamber in the center line of Kentucky avenue on the lands of the Illinois Central Railroad company hereinafter mentioned, extending southeasterly from said regulating chamber along the line parallel with the southwesterly line of Ninth street and distant eighty (80) feet from the northerly boundary line of the said lands of the Illinois Central Railroad company over the lands of the O. L. Gregory Vinegar company, and the Illinois Central Railroad company and Biederman and Gardner to the center line of Adams street; thence southwesterly along the center line of Adams street to the southwesterly line of Thirteenth street, where said sewer shall terminate in an outlet bulk head hereinafter described.

There shall be built and connected with the main sewers hereinafter described branch sewers as follows: A branch sewer in Washington street commencing with a proper connection with the main sewer hereinafter described situated on the lands of the Illinois Central Railroad company and running thence northeasterly along the center line of Washington street to a point half way between Ninth street and Tenth street.

A branch sewer shall be constructed from a proper connection with the sewer hereinafter described on Adams street, extending northwesterly upon private lands known as lot No. 9 of T. J. Flournoy's sub-division lying between Bronson street and Adams street west of Tenth street; said sewer shall be situated upon the southwesterly ten (10) feet of said lot from the intersection of said sewer with the center line of Bronson street; it shall extend northeasterly along the center of said Bronson street to the center line of Tenth street; thence along the center line of Tenth street to the southeasterly line of Clark street.

A branch sewer shall be extended from said before described sewer on Bronson street along the center line

of the un-named street parallel with Tenth street and immediately southwesterly of same, lying between Bronson street and Clark street, to an intersection with the center line of Clark street; thence northeasterly to the southwesterly line of Tenth street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with said sewer hereinafter described in Eleventh street, extending northeasterly along the center line of the easterly half of Tennessee street to an intersection with the center line of Tenth street; thence along the center line of Tenth street southeasterly to the center line of Jones street and northwesterly from the northwesterly line of Ohio street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with the main sewer on Eleventh street and extending southwesterly along the center line of Tennessee street to a point one hundred (100) feet southwesterly of the southwesterly line of Thirteenth street.

A branch sewer shall be constructed from a connection with said last named sewer from a proper connection in Twelfth street; thence southwesterly along the center line of Twelfth street to the center line of Norton street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from said last named sewer commencing with proper connection in Jones street and extending southwesterly along the center line of Jones street to a point sixty (60) feet northwesterly of the northwesterly line of the alley westerly of Twelfth street.

A branch sewer shall be laid and connected with the main sewer on Eleventh street connecting at the center line of the southeasterly half of Jackson street and running thence southwesterly along the center line of the southeasterly half of Jackson street to a point one hundred and seventy (170) feet southwesterly of the southwesterly line of Thirteenth street.

A branch sewer shall be constructed from a proper connection with the last named sewer in Jackson street extending along the center line of Twelfth street southwesterly from Jackson street to a point fifty (50) feet northwesterly from the northwesterly line of Tennessee street.

A branch sewer shall be constructed from a proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street and Kentucky avenue to the center line of Fifteenth street.

A branch sewer shall be constructed from a proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street and Broadway, extending southwesterly along the center line of the southwesterly half of Broadway to a point one hundred and fifty (150) feet northwesterly from the northwesterly line of Sixteenth street.

Branch sewers shall be constructed from proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street on Jefferson street, Monroe street, Madison street and Clay street, extending southwesterly along the center line of said streets and terminating in the center line of Thirteenth street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street at the intersection of the alley between Clay street and Harrison street and extending northeasterly along the center line of said alley to a point one hundred and twenty (120) feet southwesterly from the southwesterly line of Ninth street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street midway between Madison and Harrison streets and extending thence northeasterly along the center line of the alley between Harrison street and Madison street and said center line if extended southwesterly across lot No. 78 in said block, same being private lands owned by William Borneman and said branch sewer terminating at a point sixty (60) feet southwesterly from the southwesterly line of the Illinois Central Railroad company's right of way.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with the main sewer in Twelfth street to the center line of Jefferson street, extending northeasterly along the center line of Jefferson street to a point one hundred and seventy (170) feet northwesterly from the northwesterly line of Tenth street.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with said last named sewer in Jefferson street along the center line of Eleventh street northwesterly to the center line of the alley between Monroe and Madison streets; thence along the center line of said alley between Madison street and Monroe street northwesterly to the center line of

Tenth street and southwesterly to the terminus of said alley.

A branch sewer shall be laid from a proper connection with said last described sewer in Eleventh street, extending along the center line or the alley between Monroe and Jefferson streets northeasterly to an intersection with the southwesterly line of the Illinois Central railroad and southwesterly to the terminus of said alley.

All to be done in strict accordance with the plans and specifications, general and special, of the city engineer and consulting engineer made and provided by them for that purpose, and which are filed herewith as part hereof marked "A" and "B" respectively.

Section 3. That all of the sewers herein described or constructed hereunder, shown on the plans and specification heretofore referred to, having an internal diameter greater than twenty-four (24) inches shall be constructed of brick masonry and all sewers herein described or constructed hereunder, shown on the plans and specifications heretofore referred to, having an internal diameter of twenty-four (24) inches or less shall be constructed of vitrified tile pipes, as described in said specifications.

Section 4. That there shall be constructed manholes in said system of sewers hereinafter described at suitable distances along each sewer at such points and of such sizes as provided for upon and in the plans and specifications attached hereto, and heretofore referred to, and said manholes shall be constructed of concrete masonry.

Section 5. That there shall be constructed suitable catch basins in connection with and as a part of said systems of sewers at such points and of such sizes and dimensions as provided for in and shown on said before mentioned specifications and plans, and shall be constructed of concrete masonry.

Section 6. That there shall be constructed two regulating chambers at the points indicated and provided for in said before mentioned plans and specifications, and of such sizes and dimensions as therein provided for, and shall be constructed of concrete masonry.

Section 7. That there shall be constructed one outlet bulk head of concrete masonry, and shall be located at and of the size and dimensions provided for in the plans and specifications hereinafter referred to.

Section 8. That there shall be constructed and located in connection with said sewers, on each side thereof, house connection junctions at such points and of such sizes and dimensions as provided for in and on said before mentioned plans and specifications, all of which shall be constructed of vitrified tile pipe.

Section 9. That there shall be placed sewer connections junctions in the center line of the sewers at the crossing or abutting of each street or alley, and shall be constructed at the points indicated on and of the sizes and dimensions provided for in said plans and specifications heretofore referred to. Said hereinafter mentioned house connection junctions shall be raised from the sewer to the property to a height of not less than 5 of one foot to the one hundred (100) feet.

Section 10. Upon the passage, approval and publication hereof it shall be the duty of the board of public works, after due advertisement thereof according to law, to receive bids for the construction of the work herein provided for, and to report said bids so received by said board to the general council together with whatever recommendation said board may see proper to

(Continued on Page Six.)

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